

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet including FIG. 1. In FIG. 1, previously omitted element 13 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, and 4-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 5, 6, and 14-17 were amended in this response. Claim 3 was canceled, without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to because FIG. 1 did not label element 16. In light of the present amendments to the drawings, Applicant submits that the objection has been addressed. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for pointing out the allowable matter.

Claims 1-2, 7-8, 12 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Shankar et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,869).

Claims 4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shankar et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,869) in view of *Newton* (Newton's Telecom Dictionary, Oct. 1998, pp. 613, 656).

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shankar et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,869) in view of *Newton* (Newton's Telecom Dictionary, Oct. 1998, pp. 613, 656), and further in view of Applicant's admitted prior art.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shankar et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,869) in view of Scoggins (US Patent Pub 20030227908). The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Specifically, none of the cited documents, alone or in combination, disclose "the signaling messages including at least one information element for at least one of transmitting an address of a network access unit and transmitting an identifier for identifying a connection of the relevant network access unit, and wherein the information element for the address includes a tag having a predetermined value for identifying the information element as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 14-17."

As was generally mentioned in the Office Action, nothing in the prior art teaches or fairly suggests a tag having a predetermined value for identifying the informational element. The present disclosure teaches that the tag (referred to as an Interworking Function Address under one exemplary embodiment) is placed in a data field 152 for identifying the information element 150. The tag has a predetermined value in order to indicate that the information element 150 is used for transmitting an Internet address. The length of the information element 150 is specified in data fields 154 and 155. Other predetermined lengths of tags can be also used to identify, for example, Internet protocol Version 4, or also to identify a port number (see FIGs. 3-5).

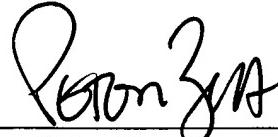
In contrast, Shankar teaches that a voice call from originating node 100 is received by the originating coding unit 110, which extracts the signaling data associated with the voice call and transmits the signaling data over the backhaul signaling link 112 to originating signaling unit 120. In response, the originating signaling unit 120 obtains the network address of the originating coding unit 110 within the packet-switching network 130 by accessing configuration data stored on the originating signaling unit 120, by querying the originating coding unit 110 over the control link 114, or by inquiring another computer system (not shown) such as domain name server (DNS). (col. 5, lines 33-43). The originating signaling unit 120 determines which terminating signaling unit 140 should receive the call by accessing internal routing tables or querying external systems. After the originating signaling unit 120 has performed the call routing capability, the originating signaling unit 120 transmits a signaling message, including information for establishing the voice and the network address of the originating coding unit 110, through network 132 to terminating signaling unit 140.

Shankar does not disclose any use of tags having a predetermined value for identifying the information element. The disclosure relied upon in Shankar simply describes a routing method for transmitting calls to a terminating unit. None of the other cited references teach this limitation as well. .

In light of the foregoing comments, the Applicant respectfully submit that claims 1-2, and 4-17 are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance as a whole. Applicant earnestly requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Peter Zura

Reg. No. 48,196

P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4208

Dated: July 12, 2005